A REMONSTRANCE OR DECLARATION OF

The *Lords* and *Commons* assembled in *Parliament*,

Shewing

The imminent danger in which the kingdome now stands, by reason of a Malignant party so prevalent with his Majesty putting Him upon violent and perilous wayes.

Therefore

The *Lords* and *Commons* doe now thinke fit to give this Account unto the world to be a Satisfaction unto all men of their reall intentions, and of the justice of their proceedings.

Ordered by the Commons in Parliament, that this Declaration be forthwith printed and Published.

HEN. ELSYNGE, CLER. PARL. D. COM.

London, Printed, for F.I. May the first, 1642.

A Declaration of the Lords and Commons now Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

WE the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, Having taken into serious Consideration the present State and Condition of imminent danger, in which the Kingdom now stands by reason of a Malignant party prevailing with his Majestie, putting Him upon violent and perillous wayes, and now in Arms against us, to the hazarding of His Majesties Person, and for the oppression of the true Religion, the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom, and the power and priviledge of Parliament; all which every honest man is bound to defend especially those who have taken the late Protestation, by which they are more particularly tyed unto it, and the more answerable before God, should they neglect it: Wherefore we finding our selves engaged in a necessity to take up Arms likewise for the defence of these, which otherwise must suffer and perish; And having used all good wayes and means to prevent extremities, and preserve the peace of the Kingdom, (which good endeavours of ours the Malignity of our enemies hath rendred altogether successlesse and vain;) Do now think fit to give this Accompt unto the World, to be a satisfaction unto all men of the justice of our proceedings; and a warning unto those who are involved in the same danger with us, to let them see the necessity and duty which lyes upon them to save themselves, their Religion, and Countrey; for which purpose we set out this ensuing Declaration.

THat it appears by the Answer which His Majesty hath given to the humble Petition for Peace, presented unto Him by both Houses of Parliament, and those demands which He makes, That the design which hath been so long carried on to alter the frame and constitution of this Government, both in Church and State, is now come to ripenesse; and the contrivers of it, conceive themselves arrived to that condition of strength, that they shall be able to put in present execution.

For, what else can be signified by the demanding of the Fleet, and the Magazine to be immediately delivered up, all our preparations of Force to cease, and the defensive armes of the Parliament to be laid downe and the Parliament to be adjourned to another place; then, that we should out of the sense of our own inability to make resistance, yeeld our selves to the cruell mercy of those who have possessed the king against us, and incited Him to violate all the priviledges, and revile the persons and Proceedings of the Parliament: or else

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elſe, if (as it cannot be otherwiſe conceived) we do not grant what is ſo unreaſonable and deſtructive, forthwith to bring on that force which is prepared againſt us, by the concurrence and aſſiſtance of Papiſts, and ambitious, and diſcontented Clergy. Delinquents obnoxious to the juſtice of Parliament, and ſome ill-affected Perſons of the Nobility and Gentry; who out of their deſire of a diſſolute liberty, apprehend, and would keep off the Reformation intended by the Parliament.

Theſe Perſons have conſpired together to ruine this Parliament, which alone hath ſet a ſtop to that violence ſo long intended and often attempted, for the alteration of Religion, and ſubverſion of the Laws, and Liberties, of the kingdom.

How far we were plunged in a miſerable expectation of moſt evill dayes, and how faſt this growing miſchiefe prevailed upon us before the Parliament, needs not now be declared, it being ſo freſh and bleeding in every mans memory. Religion was made but forme and outſide: and thoſe who made conſcience to maintain the ſubſtance and purity of it, whether Clergy, or others, were diſcountenanced & oppreſſed, as the great enemies of the ſtate. The Laws were no defence, nor protection of any mans right, All was ſubject to will and power, which impoſed what payments they thought fit to drain the Subjects purſe, and ſupply thoſe neceſſities, which their ill Counſels had brought upon the King, or gratifie ſuch as were inſtruments in promoting thoſe illegall and oppreſſive courſes. They who yeelded and complied, were countenanced and advanced, all others diſgraced and kept under: that ſo mens minds made poore and baſe, and their Liberties loſt and gone, they might be ready to let go their Religion, whenſoever it ſhould be reſolved to alter it: which was, and ſtill is the great deſign, & all elſe made uſe of, but as in inſtrumentary and ſubſervient to it.

When they conceived the way to be ſufficiantly prepared, They at laſt reſolved to put on their Maſter-piece in *Scotland*, (where the ſame method had been followed) and more boldly to unmaske themſelves, in impoſing upon them a Popiſh Service-Booke, for well they knew the ſame Fate attended both Kingdoms, and Religion could not be altered in the one without the other, God raiſed the ſpirits of that Nation to oppoſe it, with ſo much zeal and indignation, That it kindled ſuch a flame, as no expedient could be found, but a Parliament here to quench it.

This neceſſity, brought on this Parliament, and the ſame neceſſity gave it in the beginning power to act with more vigor and reſolution, than former Parliaments had done, And to ſet upon a Reformation of the great diſorders, both in the Eccleſiaſticall and Civill State; which drew a more particular enuie and *odium* upon it, then was uſuall to the generallity of Parliaments; and was a cauſe that thoſe, who had ſwallowed up in their thoughts, our Religion and Liberties, and now ſaw themſelves defeated by this means, bended all their endeavours, and raiſed all their Forces to deſtroy it.

First, whilest the Scottish Army remained here, they endeavoured to incense the two nations, and engage their Armies one against the other, that in such a confusion as needs must have followed, the Parliament might not be able to sit; and those forces destroying one another, might open some opportunity for them to gain their ends upon both kingdoms; and that then, as their need so the being of the Parliament might ceale: The wisdom of the Parliament prevented that mischief, and composed those great differences betwixt the King, and the Kingdome, of *Scotland*. That plot failing, they endeavoured to turn the English Army against the Parliament: this was discovered, the chief Actors fled, and the danger avoided. Then they labour to stirr up the Scottish Army against us; But such was the faithfulnesse and affection of those our Brethren, that they could not effect it.

After this, they carry the King into *Scotland*, to try if a party could be their raised, to suppresse first, the good party in that Kingdom, and so strenghtned from thence, the better to compasse their intended purpose here. At the same time, the Rebellion in *Ireland*, an egge likewise of their hatching, breakes out. But their plot failed in *Scotland*; yet upon hopes of successe there. Such preparations were here, and such recours of ill affected persons in this Town, That the Parliament, thought it necessary for their own security, to have a Guard. The King upon His return instantly dismisses that Guard, and puts another upon us, which produced such all effects, as we were glad to dismisse them, and rather run any hazard then have such a Guard.

Thus left naked, Presently some Members of both Houses are unjustly charged with Treason; and the King comes with a Troop of Cavaliers to the House of Commons, to fetch these away by force, whom he had caused to be so vnjustly accused, The greatest violation of the priviledges of Parliament, that ever was attempted and so manifest a destruction of the Right of the subject, which is onely preserued by Parliament, That the City of *London* tooke a pious and generous resolution to guard the Parliament themselves: which so grieved and enraged those wicked persons, who had engaged the King in that last, and all those other designs and practises against the Parliament, That they make him forsake *Whitehall*, under pretence that his Person was there in danger, A suggestion as false as the Father of lyes can invent.

Then do they work upon him, and uppon the Queen, perswade her to retire out of the Kingdom, and cary him further and further from the Parliament. and so possesse him with an hatred of it, that they cannot put words bitter enough into his mouth, to expresse is upon all occasions; They make him crosse, oppose, and inveigh against all the proceedings, of Parliament; encourage and protect all those who wil affront it; take away all power and authority from it, to make it contemptible, and of lesse esteem then the meanest Court; draw away the Members, commanding them to come to him to *York*, and in stead of

discharging their duty in the service of the Parliament, to contribute their advice and assistance to the destruction of it; endeavour to possesse the People, that the Parliament will take away the Law, and introduce an Arbitrary Government, a thing which every honest Morall man abhors, much more the Wisdom, Iustice, and Piety of the two Houses of Parliament? and in truth such a charge, as no Rationall man can believe, It being unpossible so many severall persons, as the two Houses of Parliament consist of, about six Hundred, and in either House all of equall power, should all of them, or at least the *Maior* part, agree in Acts of Will, and Tyrannie, which make up an Arbitrary Government and most improbable, that the Nobility, and chief Gentery of this Kingdom should conspire to take away the Law, by which they enjoy their Estates, are protected from any act of Violence, and Power, and differenced from the meaner sort of people, with whom otherwise they would be but fellowservants

To make all this good upon the Parliament; and either make the Kingdom believe it, or so awe it, as no body shall dare say the contrary; force is prepared, men are levied, and the Malignant party of the Kingdom, as was before specified that is, Papists, the prelaticall Clergie, Delinquents, and part of the Nobility and Gentery, which either feare Reformation, or seek preferment by betraying their Country, to serve the Court, have combined, to bury the happinesse of this Kingdome, in the ruine of this Parliament; and by forcing it, to cut up the freedom of Parliament by the root, and either take all Parliaments away, or which is worse, make them the instruments of slavery, to confirm it by Law, and leave the disease incurable.

that done, then come they to crowne their work, and put that in execution which was first in their intention, that is, the changing of Religion into popery, and Superstition.

All this while the two Houses of Parliament have with all duty and loyalty still applyed themselves unto His Majesty, and laboured by humble prayers, and cleer and convincing Reasons and Arguments in severall Petitions, to satisfie him of their intentions, the justnesse of their proceedings, their desire of the safety of His Royall person, and the peace of the Kingdom.

And onely to preserve that peace, and prevent the pernicious practices of these Incendiaries (such as the Lord *Digby*, who at first perswaded the King to get into some strong place, that He might there protect those, whom he stiled the Kings servants, but in truth such as do divide Him from His Parliament and Kingdom, and might be revenged upon His Parliament, where he said Traitors bare the sway, And who in the meane time promised he would do him service abroad, which by his own Letters appears to be the procuring of supplies against the Kingdome and Parliament, with which he himselfe said he would returne; as since he hath done disguised, with store of Armes, in the Ship called *The Providence*; And who had attempted upon the Kings first

going

going from *Whitehall*, to raise some numbers of horse and foot, under the colour of a Guard for His Majestie, to be the foundation of an Army against the Parliament, which then failing, hath since taken effect, and shews what was then in their thoughts, before *Hull* or the *Militia*, or any thing else of that nature was in question) the Parliament thought fit to secure *Hull*, lest it might be a receptacle of such ill-affected persons, and of what aid could be gotten from Forraign parts, the Fleet under the Earl of *Warwick*, to defend the Kingdom, and prevent such mischief from abroad; the Magazin of Arms, that they should not be imployed against Vs; and the *Militia* of the Kingdom in such hands, as the Parliament might confide in, to suppresse commotions within our selves.

And how necessary all this was to be done, the succeeding designs and practises upon them, all do sufficiently manifest; And great cause hath the whole Kingdom to blesse God, who put it into the head and hearts of the Parliament, to take care of these particulars. For were these pernicious persons about the King, Masters of them, how easie would it be for them to master the Parliament, and master the Kingdom; And what could we expect but ruin and destruction from such Masters, who make the King in this manner revile, and detest Vs and our Actions; such, who have imbarqued Him in so many designs to overthrow this Parliament; such, who have so long thirsted to see Religion and Liberty confounded together?

Let the world now judge, what more could be don by Vs, then we have done to appease His Majestie, and regaine His grace and Favour, if (after the presenting of such a Petition as the last was, so full of submiss, humble, affectionate desires of Peace, so full of Duty and Loyalty, as we thought malice it self could not have excepted against it, And having received so sharp a return, such expressions of bitternesse, a justification and avowed protection of Delinquents from the hand of Justice, Demands of so apparent danger, such manifestations of an intention to destroy Vs, and with Vs the whole Kingdom, and this more cleerly evidenced by their subsequent Actions, even since these Propositions have been made unto Vs from His Majestie, overrunning several Counties, compelling the Trained Bands by force to come in and joyn with them, or disarming them, and putting their Arms into the hands of lewd and desperate persons, thereby turning the Arms of the Kingdom against it self) it be not fit for Vs, not only not to yeeld to what is required, but also to make further provision, for the preservation of Our selves, and of those who have left Vs hither, and intrusted Vs with all they have, Estate, Liberty, and Life, and that which is the Life of their Lives, their Religion, and even for the safety of the Kings person now envioned by those, who cary Him upon His owne ruine and the destruction of all his People: At least to give them warning, that all this is in danger; That if the King may force this Parliament, they may bid farewell to all Parliaments, from ever receiving good by them;

and

and if Parliaments be loſt, they are loſt: Their Laws are loſt, as well thoſe lately made, as in former times, all which will be cut in ſunder, with the ſame ſword now drawn for the deſtruction of this Parliament.

Then, if they will not come to helpe the Parliament, and ſave themſelves, though both they and We muſt periſh, yet have We diſcharged Our conſciences, and delivered Our Soules; and We will look for a reward in Heaven, ſhould we be ſo ill requited upon Earth, by thoſe of whom We have ſo well deſerved; which We cannot fear, having found upon all occaſions ſuch reall Demonſtrations of their love and affection, and of their right underſtanding, and apprehenſion of Our and their common danger; Eſpecielly now, that the Queſtion is ſo clearly ſtated, and that it appeareth, that neither *Hull* nor the *Militia*, nor the Magazin are the grounds of War, which is ſo furiouſly driven on againſt Vs, by a Malignant party of Papiſts, thoſe who call themſelves Cavaliers, and other ill-affected perſons; but ſo far forth onely, as the Parliament and all the Members of both Houſes, and all other perſons who have ſhewed themſelves forward for the defence of the ſincerity of Religion, the Laws and Liberties of the Kingdom, and the iuſt power and peiviledges of Parliament, are preſerved and ſecured thereby.

For many deſigns upon the Parliament above mentioned, The attempts to be poſſeſſed of *Hull*, and of the Magazin, by ſending thither Captain *Leg*, a Delinquent to the Parl. for having had a hand in the treaſonable practice to bring up the Army againſt Vs, and the Earl of *Newcaſtle* in a diſguiſed habit, which was a purſuance of the Lord *Digbies* advice, and the endeavouring to raiſe forces under the pretence of a Guard to the Kings Perſon in the winter, all this before we medled with *Hull*, or Magazin, or *Militia*, ſhew plainly that Our Act in ſecuring them, was not cauſe of the Kings taking up Armes, and exerciſing hoſtility upon His loving and loyall Subjects, which was in the thoughts and endeavors of thoſe about His Majeſty, who then had, and ſtill have the greateſt influence upon His Councells, before We thought of *Hull*, or *Militia*, or any thing elſe of that nature; And that Our reſigning of them now, would not prevail with Him, to make Him lay down His Armes, and return to His Parliament, and gratifie the earneſt and longing deſires of His people, to enjoy His preſence, favour, and protection: But that, if He could recover (either by Our Reſignation or any other way) pieces of ſo much advantage to Him, and weakning to Vs, we would be made of them to Our infinite prejudice and ruin, The intention being ſtill the ſame, not to reſt ſatisfied with having *Hull*, or taking away the Ordinance of the *Militia*; But, to deſtroy the Parliament, and be maſters of Our Religion and Liberties, To make Vs ſlaves, and alter the Government of this Kingdom, and reduce it to the condition of ſome other Countries, which are not governed by Parliaments, and ſo by Laws, but by the will of the Prince, or rather of thoſe who are about Him.

Yet

Yet willingly would we give His Majesty satisfaction in these particulars (and so have we offered it) could we be secured, that disarming our selves, and delivering them up to His Majesty, (as the sword of justice is already put into the hands of divers Popish, and other ill-affected persons, by putting them into Commissions of peace, and other Commissions, and putting others that are well-affected) so we should not for our own destruction put the Military sword into the hands of those evil Councellors, and ill-affected persons, who are so prevalent with His Majesty, Papists many of them, or very late converts, by taking the Oath of Supremacie and Allegiance, for which, they may very well have a Dispensation, or Indulgence, to be enabled thereby to promote so great a service for the Popish cause, as to destroy the two Houses of Parliament, and through their sides, the Protestant Religion.

But we have too just cause to beleeve and know, considering those continued designes upon us, and the composition of the *Kings* Army, and of His councell at this time, that these things are desired, to be made use of to our destruction and the destruction of that which we are bound by our Protestation to defend, and wo to us if we do it not at leaste do our utmost endeavours in it, for the discharge of our Duties, and the saving of our Souls, and leave the successe to God Almighty.

Therefore we the Lords and Commons are resolved to expose our Lives and Fortunes for the defence and maintainance of the true Religion, the Kings Person. Honour and estate, the power and priviledge of Parliament, and the just Rights, and Liberties of the Subject, And for the prevention of that mischievous design, which gives motion to all the rest, and hath been so strongly pursued these many yeers, The altering of our Religion, which if God in his mercy had not miraculously diverted, long ago had we been brought to the condition of poor *Ireland*, weltring in our own blood and confusion.

And we do here require all those who have any sence of piety, honour, or compassion, to helpe a distressed State, especially such as have taken the Protestation, and are bound in the same duty with us unto their God, their King and country, to come into our aid and assistance: this being the true cause for which we raise an Army, under the command of the Earle of *Essex*, with whom in this cause we will live and die.

FINIS.